

Increased Management Considerations in the Prescribed Fire Program: Three Phases of reinstatement of the National Park Service prescribed fire program.

Development and Implementation of Interim Guidelines.

Time frame – September 15 to October 31, 2000

Process and Action Items -

Process: Development and implementation of interim guidelines for prescribed fire program. Currently, national approval and project exemption criteria must be in place for limited, high priority, low risk prescribed fire projects (burns must meet criteria of high priority status and low risk categories, see June 15th memo to Regional Directors. These are burn projects where the consequence of failure is low). No Wildland Urban Interface prescribed fire projects are permitted. Revised direction on prescription parameters will be developed with the addition of a Go/No Go Checklist.

Action Items and Task Groups:

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| Development of Prescribed Fire Decision Tools: | Oct 31 | Fire Management Program Center (FMPC in Boise, ID) |
| • Definition of and redesign of Risk Assessment process | | |
| • Definition of and redesign Complexity Rating process | | |
| • Agency definition and allocation process of holding resources. | | |
| • Agency definition, clarification of planning for and use of contingency resources. | | |
| • Initiate study of situational awareness decision tools for prescribed fire. | | |
| • Develop process to evaluate the consequences of failure in prescribed fire projects. | | |
| • Develop working definition of Wildland Urban Interface. | | |
| Revised direction on prescription parameters, Burn Plan revision: | Oct 31 | FMPC/Fire Management Leadership Board (FMLB Includes FMPC Program Leads and the Regional Fire Management Officers) |
| Risk assessment | | |
| Complexity analysis | | |
| Burn unit delineation | | |
| Identification of critical holding points | | |
| Identification of holding forces | | |
| Contingency planning – | | |
| Potential fire behavior outside unit | | |
| Identification of initial contingency actions | | |
| Identification of contingency resources | | |
| Identification of new strategy | | |
| Budget planning considerations | | |
| Qualifications by project complexity level | | |
| Proposed Design for External Technical Review
(Develop proposal for interagency review and concurrence) | Oct 31 | FMLB |
| Use of AD Crews in Project Prep and Non-Fire Treatments
interagency budget group) | Oct 31 | FMLB (Steve Botti and |

Phase I - Reinstatement of Low Complexity, Low Consequences of Failure Burns west of the 100th Meridian. No Wildland Urban Interface prescribed fire activities will be considered.

Time frame – November 1 to December 30, 2000.

Process and Action Items –

Process: Reintroduction of prescribed fire program, with the exception of Wildland Urban Interface prescribed fire projects, under revised planning and implementation guidelines. Regional approval of all low complexity, low consequences of failure prescribed burns west of the 100th meridian will be allowed.

Action Items:

White Paper: Ecosystem Goals in Wildland Urban Interface	Dec 1	FMLB
Paper will explain the balance of ecosystem benefits with urban interface concerns.		

Incorporation and Implementation of Action Items and Recommendations from the Investigation and Reviews:	Dec 1	FMLB/FMPC
Investigation Report,		
Independent Board of Review,		
GAO Review,		
NAPA Phase I Report		

Phase II - Reinstatement of high complexity prescribed fire projects. Low complexity, low consequence of failure, Wildland Urban Interface prescribed fire projects will be allowed.

Time frame – January 1 – March 1, 2001

Process and Action Items -

Process: Revise manual guidelines and direction. Incorporate all Interim Guidelines into DO-18, RM-18, or develop a handbook (reference book). Begin drafting an interagency handbook for prescribed fire.

Action Items:

Revision of RM-18 or development of prescribed fire handbook	Jan 31	FMPC
Continued focus on NAPA and other review recommendations	Ongoing	FMPC
Replace Chapter 9 with either new, detailed direction or with reference to new handbook.	Feb 15	FMPC

Phase III - Reinstatement of full agency prescribed fire program. This includes all Wildland Urban Interface prescribed fire projects.

Time frame – Beginning March 1, 2001

Process and Action Items -

Process: Complete manual guidance and direction will be in place. All interim guidelines will be incorporated into appropriate agency documents. Review and investigation action items and recommendations will have been addressed to date.

Action Items:

Ongoing monitoring and oversight of the agency prescribed fire program will be in place at the appropriate administrative levels.

